

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing shared objects and node-specific objects in a cluster file system, said method comprising:

installing a particular shared object in said cluster file system;

at a point in time after said installation, providing to said particular shared object an attribute that indicates any object created in said particular shared object after said point in time is designated as node-specific while any object existing in said particular shared object prior to said point in time maintains designation as shared, wherein any object designated as shared in said particular shared object is available to a plurality of nodes; and

when a node in the plurality of nodes causes a file system operation that is node-specific to be performed by accessing said particular shared object, performing said file system operation in an alternate directory corresponding to said node, wherein said alternate directory supports a node-specific object that is available solely to the corresponding node of said nodes; and

using a pointer associated with said particular shared object to access alternate directory location information for the alternate directory, said alternate directory location information stored in a table having alternate directory location information for each node and wherein said performing said file system operation in said alternate directory includes creating said alternate directory for said node and updating said table with a location of said alternate directory if said alternate directory information for said node indicates that said alternate directory has not been created.

2. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said particular shared object is a container-type shared object.

3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said particular shared object is a directory.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said file system operation that is node-specific includes creating one of a node-specific file and a node-specific directory.

6. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 5 wherein said file system operation that is node-specific includes modifying one of said node-specific file and said node-specific directory.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 5 wherein said file system operation that is node-specific includes deleting one of said node-specific file and said node-specific directory.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of providing shared objects and node-specific objects in a cluster file system, said method comprising:

installing a particular shared object in said cluster file system;

at a point in time after said installation, providing to said particular shared object an attribute that indicates any object created in said particular shared object after said point in time is designated as node-specific while any object existing in said particular shared object prior to said point in time maintains designation as shared, wherein any object designated as shared in said particular shared object is available to a plurality of nodes; and

when a node in the plurality of nodes causes a file system operation that is node-specific to be performed by accessing said particular shared object, performing said file system operation in an alternate directory corresponding to said node, wherein said alternate directory supports a node-specific object that is available solely to the corresponding node of said nodes; and

using a pointer associated with said particular shared object to access alternate directory location information for the alternate directory, said alternate directory location information stored in a table having alternate directory location information for each node and wherein said performing said file system operation in said alternate directory includes creating said alternate directory for said node and updating said table with a location of said alternate directory if said alternate directory information for said node indicates that said alternate directory has not been created.

9. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 wherein said particular shared object is a container-type shared object.

10. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 wherein said particular shared object is a directory.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 wherein said file system operation that is node-specific includes creating one of a node-specific file and a node-specific directory.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 12 wherein said file system operation that is node-specific includes modifying one of said node-specific file and said node-specific directory.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 12 wherein said file system operation that is node-specific includes deleting one of said node-specific file and said node-specific directory.

15. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a cluster having a plurality of nodes;
a mass storage device coupled to said cluster; and

a cluster file system configured to install a shared object and to automatically provide support for node-specific objects in said shared object, said cluster file system including a shared directory supporting said shared objects, wherin at a point in time after installation of said shared object, said cluster file system provides to said shared object an attribute that indicates any object created in said shared object after said point in time is designated as node-specific while any object existing in said shared object prior to said point in time maintains designation as shared, wherin any object designated as shared in said shared object is available to said plurality of nodes, wherein when one of said nodes in the plurality of nodes causes a file system operation that is node-specific to be performed by accessing said shared object, said cluster file system performs said file system operation in an alternate directory corresponding to said node and supporting a node-specific object that is available solely to the corresponding node of said plurality of nodes, wherein said cluster file system uses a pointer associated with said shared object to access alternate directory location information for the alternate directory, said alternate directory location information stored in a table having alternate directory location information for each node, and wherein said cluster file system creates said alternate directory for said node and updates said table with a location of said alternate directory if said alternate directory information for said node indicates that said alternate directory has not been created.

16. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said alternate directory supports a node-specific object.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 16 wherein said file system operation that is node-specific includes creating one of a node-specific file and a node-specific directory.

19. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 18 wherein said file system operation that is node-specific includes modifying one of said node-specific file and said node-specific directory.

20. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 18 wherein said file system operation that is node-specific includes deleting one of said node-specific file and said node-specific directory.

21. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said shared object is a container-type shared object.

22. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said shared object is a directory.